

NEWSLETTER

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Letter from the Director



Dear colleagues,

As we settle into another school year, we're excited to continue to work with our partners across the region in service of educator and student outcomes. In this issue of the REL Central newsletter, you'll learn about some of that work, from our focus on individual plans of study to improve post-secondary outcomes in Kansas, to how we're supporting South Dakota's teacher apprenticeship program, to accelerating math achievement in North Dakota, and our recent trip to Standing Rock where we met with educators to discuss culturally responsive math. We're also sharing a new blog from the Institute of Education Sciences that focuses on how RELs across

the network are supporting educator recruitment and retention. We hope you find all of these updates and related resources useful!

As always, please reach out with any questions, comments, or requests for assistance at RELCentral@mathematica-mpr.com.

**Best regards,
Phillip Herman
Director, REL Central**

New IES Blog: The Regional Educational Lab Program: Making a Difference in Educator Recruitment and Retention



The [second](#) of a four-part blog series from IES highlights four REL research and development projects that address educator recruitment and retention. Each demonstrates how RELs are leveraging their distinct capacity for innovation, rigorous research, and authentic partnership to deliver locally focused and evidence-based supports to the regions, states, and communities they serve.

New REL Central Blog: REL Central Supports New Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway Pilot in South Dakota

As part of the *Partnership for Strengthening the Teacher Pipeline in South Dakota to Alleviate Teacher Shortages*, REL Central is collaborating with the South Dakota Department of Education and multiple other organizations in the state to support their use of research evidence and data as they design, implement, and refine their new teacher apprenticeship program, the South Dakota Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway. The program offers paraprofessionals an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education, special education, or secondary education while continuing to work in South Dakota classrooms. At the end of July, a group of nearly 90 paraprofessionals who are participating in the program and 40 experienced teachers who will serve as their mentors gathered in Pierre, South Dakota's capital to participate in an orientation for the new program. Learn more about the program—and the teachers who are participating—in our latest [blog](#)!



New REL Central Infographic: How Individual Plans of Study Can Support Students' College and Career Readiness and Success

IES Institute of Education Sciences

How Individual Plans of Study Can Support Students' College and Career Readiness and Success

Regional Educational Laboratory Central

Individual Plans of Study (IPS) are education and career plans that are tailored to each student's personal interests and skills and help guide and focus their efforts throughout middle and high school. IPS-related activities focus on:

- Self-exploration
- Career exploration
- College and career planning and goal setting
- Workforce Competency and Skill Development

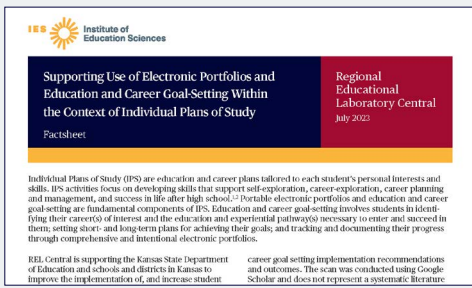
IPS are both a product and a process. While each student will take a different path to achieve their personal college and/or career goals, IPS are intended to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to help them accomplish those goals.

IPS At A Glance

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Self-exploration (students learn about their personal strengths and interests)School time dedicated to IPS activitiesPersonal strengths and learning style inventoriesCareer interest assessmentsDiscussions with educators and counselors to identify the goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">College and career planning and goal setting (students develop plans to achieve their college and/or career goals)Identify college and career goals and steps needed to accomplish themMulti-year class plan aligned with goalsPost-high school plan (e.g., workforce, military, college)Student-led conference to report on goal progress
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Individual Plans of Study (IPS) are education and career plans that are tailored to each student's personal interests and skills and help guide and focus their efforts, including the classes they take throughout middle and high school. IPS-related activities focus on self-exploration, career exploration, college and career planning and goal setting, and workforce competency and skill development. IPS are both a product and a process. While each student will take a different path to achieve their personal college and/or career goals, IPS are intended to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to help them accomplish those goals. Check out [our latest infographic](#) to learn more about IPS and the research base supporting IPS activities!

New Fact Sheet: Supporting Use of Electronic Portfolios and Education and Career Goal-Setting Within the Context of Individual Plans of Study



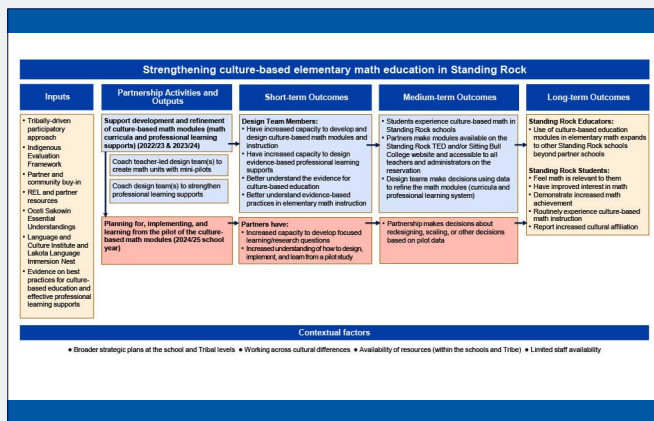
REL Central is supporting the Kansas State Department of Education and schools and districts in Kansas to improve the implementation of, and increase student participation in, promising IPS practices. [This fact sheet](#) summarizes research linking education and career goal-setting with student outcomes and provides examples of research-based recommendations for using electronic portfolios to implement these practices.

Partnership Spotlight: Introducing the Partnership for Accelerating Math Achievement in North Dakota

Partners in North Dakota believe that meeting more learners where they are in math will lead to accelerated math growth and ultimately improved math achievement. REL Central is partnering with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota regional educational associations, and North Dakota districts and schools to support them to use evidence to design and continuously improve students' experiences in math classrooms. Learn more by reading our [new infographic](#).



Where in the world is REL Central?



On August 18, REL Central team members Kathleen Feeney and Doug Van Dine joined educators from across Standing Rock Indian Reservation at the annual Standing Rock Professional Development Day. The team shared information on the progress of the project-based, culture-based elementary math modules under development by members of the *Strengthening Culture-Based Education in Standing Rock partnership*, which focuses on supporting students' interest in math, math achievement, and cultural identity.

Learn more about the partnership [here!](#)

Connect with Us



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